

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This preliminary amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). On April 20, 2004, Applicant and the undersigned attorney conducted a telephone conference with the Examiner. The Examiner is thanked for consideration of our arguments pertaining to the patentable distinctions between the cited prior art references and the claimed invention.

More specifically, the undersigned attorney discussed Peterson and its failure to teach or even suggest adaptation of an accumulator to provide fluid as a secondary source to the irrigation line. Upon conclusion of the discussions, it was determined that a RCE should be filed to allow the Examiner to fully consider the allowability of the claims and to conduct an additional search.

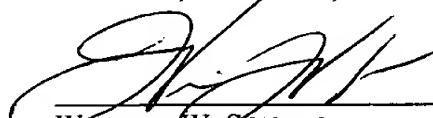
Hence, claims 1, 13, 35, 37, 41 and 48 have been amended and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant contends that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider these claims. Allowance of these claims at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



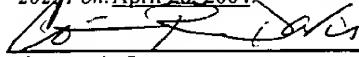
WILLIAM W. SCHAAL
Reg. No. 39,018

Dated: April 26, 2004

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(714) 557-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to:
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Corrinn R. Davis

04/26/04
Date